

## PROGRESS IN GUAM

### Some Interesting Points Are Given.

MISS CHANNELL, the missionary teacher from Guam who is returning to the Mainland via the transport Solace, and who has been the guest of Mrs. Henry C. Brown for the past few days, was interviewed yesterday afternoon just previous to the departure of the Solace. She expressed herself as very much charmed with Honolulu, though her ill-health did not permit her to go about much. She is now on her way to San Francisco to undergo an operation for appendicitis, in the hope of recovering her health, which has been subjected to a severe strain.

Miss Channell passed through Honolulu some eight months ago, being sent out as a teacher by the American Board of Missions, to Guam. She was entertained during her visit by Mrs. J. B. Atherton, and delivered an interesting lecture at the Young Men's Christian Association hall.

On arriving at Guam, Miss Channell was prostrated by a fever which kept her confined to her bed for many weeks, and upon recovering she was again attacked by a fever which endangered her life for a long time. Later she was able to take up her duties, and began the work of teaching, but after a month at her post she was seized with appendicitis and has ever since suffered greatly from this malady.

In speaking of her misfortunes Miss Channell seemed quite cheerful but stated that under no circumstances would she again return to Guam. "The work would have been very interesting," said she, "and the climate was not unpleasant or unhealthy, but I was advised by my doctor that to live there would be impossible for me. I trust that I shall survive the operation which I am to undergo and that I shall soon be able to be back again at mission work, but I shall not return to Guam, nor to any foreign work, I think. My home is in Massachusetts, and I shall take up the work somewhere on the Mainland when I recover."

Miss Channell also gave some information in regard to the condition in Guam. "The people are very tractable and hospitable," said she, "and working among them would be a delight. They speak Chamorro, which is a dialect. The only religious denomination represented there before our party arrived was the Catholics. There is one priest, a very good and kindly old man, Rev. F. M. Rice and Mrs. Rice are now carrying on splendid work there, representing the Mission Board, and they are the only religious workers there outside of the Catholics. The people have been educated in Spanish and are very intelligent. At the time I left there were about sixty Filipino prisoners on the island. They are not compelled to work at the present time, but they are to be organized into a chain gang and put to work upon the roads. Progress is very noticeable on the island. The natives are now erecting a civil hospital, incited by the Government, which will furnish it with surgeons, trained attendants and medicines. Hospitals are also being established in all the villages, to be in charge of attendants trained at the Government hospital at Agaña. The Government is building a large market, and when it is completed and put in operation all the meats and fish sold will be under inspection. Arrangements for a regular water supply for the residents of the city are also being made. The roads and highways have all been put in good repair, the main highway being a splendid road over six miles in length, leading from the landing-place at Piti to the city of Agaña, and extending a mile beyond. There is no liquor to be had, as laws were made in the beginning of the present Government prohibiting the sale of intoxicants. The city of Agaña has a population of 6,000."

In regard to Miss Channell's personal experience she has little to say, her sufferings being borne without complaint. At the time she was first attacked by appendicitis she was living alone in a cottage teaching the natives, the nearest white family living five miles away, and her household tasks being attended by a native woman living near by. She was hardly able to communicate intelligibly with the natives, and when seized by the attack lay suffering alone for hours in her isolated house without aid from any source. Finally Governor Schroeder and his family, driving by, heard her moans and sought medical aid for her. She was confined to her bed for many weeks, and though able to move about she is still suffering from chronic appendicitis, her only hope for relief and escape from death being in the operation which she is journeying towards the Mainland to have performed.

The "Historical Missionary Album," issued from the presses of the Gazette Company, and now on sale, contains all obtainable portraits of the missionaries who are so closely identified with the annals of Hawaii, with accompanying personal data. The album ought to be in every private and public Hawaiian library.

Queen street, between Richards and South streets, is receiving considerable attention from the Public Works Department. New curbing are being set in and the street macadamized. Queen street for the past year has been one of the worst thoroughfares in the business section of the city, and few persons who drove in light buggies, chose that route.

## WHITE CANE FIELD LABOR A FAILURE IN QUEENSLAND

A SHORT time ago, the Queenslanders, in view of the great importance of the question of colored labor for the well being of the sugar industry, the supply of which is threatened by being eventually stopped by the action of the federal government, sent a special commissioner to report on the circumstances connected with the present carrying on of the industry in Queensland.

The Queensland commissioner visited the islands, Bundaberg and Binger districts, and the result of his investigation shows the fallacy of the idea of carrying on profitable production of cane sugar with only white men as laborers. One cane planter or farmer after another told the same story of the unreliability of the white laborer, of his physical unfitness for heavy work of trashing and cutting in tropical cane fields, his indisposition for such continued heavy work, his insubordination and, finally, the irregularity of the supply of such labor. To this must be added the intermittent nature of the demand for special labor connected with trashing and cutting, as it only lasts at most about three months every year.

The experience of the Hawaiian Islands is alluded to by the reporter. In that country, contrary to the constitutional law of the United States, the planters were allowed to employ Asiatic labor for a time, and many of the agents were despatched to the United States and Canada, who sent over several gangs of white laborers. They were set to work and received good wages, but they got tired of the work and paid the colored laborers to do it for them.

The Australian premier, who has been making a tour of Queensland, said that small holdings would solve the problem of white versus black labor, totally overlooking the fact that even though the productivity of the land were greatly increased by this system, still the main difficulty would remain, that of the incapacity of the white man for such severe physical exertion under a tropical sun in the close atmosphere of the cane field.

The managers of the Childers mill, belonging to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, did not think there was the slightest possibility of getting white men to work in the cane fields, even in Southern Queensland, notwithstanding its close proximity to the principal labor centers. The farmers in the Bundaberg district, who all employ Kanakas for cane cutting, considered the white man to be capable of the work, but they would not do it at any price if he could avoid it, as it taxed the physical endurance of the strongest man; they further said there was often a scarcity of such labor just at critical junctures.

The managers of a large plantation in the Bundaberg district were of the opinion that if they were deprived of Kanaka labor it would be impossible to continue cane growing, and related the experience of three white men who came from New South Wales and took up forty acres of scrub land, fully intending to sow and reap to do their own work, but who eventually had to be engaged for a gang of Kanakas to complete the work, and then left the district. The man who next took up the land worked it by the ordinary method, using colored labor for the heavy work, and is still doing well.

The proprietor of another plantation mentioned, among other statements, that to the same effect as those previously heard, having once engaged twenty-one white laborers to cut cane. They started in the early morning, but when the overseer went an hour or two later and saw the work was progressing, he found all gone but the cane and the cane cut a foot from the ground.

One of the Messrs. Young, the well known proprietors of Fairymead plantation, who have had some twenty years' experience in the district, spoke sympathetically on the question of Kanaka labor as a necessity, from the point of view of the maintenance of the labor supply, as well as from that of the financial success of the industry. The farmers of the Binger district were singularly unanimous in expressing a determination to abandon cane cultivation if the only reliable means of carrying it on, that of using Kanaka labor, was rendered unavailable.

They are all strong democrats, but recognize that the success of the industry is only possible with the aid of the Kanakas. The representative of the Queensland cane growers, who has been near the end of his investigation in the sub-tropical districts, he could only reflect on the monotonous reiteration of the answer: "Impossible to grow sugar successfully without the aid of the Kanakas," even though some of the farmers who gave this opinion might be termed as "big game" labor views. In one case the manager "dismissed the question with a contemptuous wave of the hand."

The following seems conclusive: "The manager of the Millaquin and Yengari Sugar Company, of Bundaberg, gave the interesting particulars concerning the employment of European laborers and its effect on the industry, both as regards the production of the sugar and the subsequent refining process. When the crisis occurred due to legislation preventing the Kanakas from being employed in the sugar fields, much land being cleared to supply new mill labor was allowed to revert to forest, and

planters will have to contend with, and those who are the most watchful and persistent in their efforts to combat the employment of the cane grower will find their yields of sugar up to expectations.—Planters' Monthly.

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Professor Koebel, during his recent visit of inspection to Kauai, found the cane borer less destructive than it was last year. After trying several methods of destroying these pests, he thinks the best and surest way is to have women and children go through cane fields, to search for and kill them. A practice in this method soon enables them to destroy and destroy the pests. Fields that have been treated thoroughly in this way, show very little injured cane, as compared to those not so treated. The best time for doing this is when the cane fields are being stripped, as this work of stripping off the leaves starts them out of their hiding places in the stalks. The beetle which attacks the cane fields of Louisiana is a different insect from that in our fields, though they both work in the same way—boring into, and thus killing the cane stalk. Whatever the labor of searching for and killing the borers may cost, it is money well spent, resulting in an increase of cane stalks, and consequently juice and sugar.

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